GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:96
ANSWERED ON:09.03.2005
IMPLEMENTATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS OF JPC ON SOFT DRINKS
Reddy Shri Magunta Sreenivasulu

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has taken any decision regarding the implementation of the recommendations of the Joint Parliamentary Committee on pesticides residues and safety standards in packed water and soft drinks particularly Coca-cola and Pepsi-cola;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Supreme Court has issued any notice to the Union Government to regulate the contents of soft drinks and mineral water;

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the steps taken/being taken in this regard so far;

(e) whether the Government has issued any directions to the soft drink companies for a complete and mandatory disclosure of the contents of the soft drinks;

(f) if so, whether the Government has set any time limit to implement these standards in order to protect the interests of the consumers; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS)

(a)to(g): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 96 FOR 9TH MARCH, 2005

The Central Committee for Food Standards(CCFS) deliberated in detail on the recommendations of the Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) on Pesticide Residues in and Safety Standards for Soft Drinks, Fruit Juice and other Beverages in its 50th meeting held on 13th February, 2004. The CCFS recommended that water to be used in the manufacturing of carbonated water shall conform to the standards prescribed for packaged drinking water under the Prevention of Food Adulteration (PFA) Rules, 1955, as amended vide Notification GSR No. 554(E) dated 18.7.2003. Accordingly, the standards of carbonated water have since been amended vide notification GSR No. 451(E) dated 15.7.2004.

In Writ Petition (Civil) No. 681 of 2004, filed in the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India by Centre for Public Interest Litigation Vs. Union of India for seeking directions for Union of India (Ministry of Health and Family Welfare) to lay down strict guidelines and rules so that the manufacturing process of soft drinks in India can be regulated with regard to their contents, the Hon`ble Supreme Court has passed order to issue notice to Ministry of Health & F.W. who are the respondent in this case.

Under the Prevention of Food Adulteration (PFA) Rules, 1955, manufacturers of all packaged food articles, including those of soft drinks are required to indicate the contents of the food articles on the labels, in accordance with the relevant labeling provisions under the PFA Rules.